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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, SEPTEMBER 13, 2000

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, ex rel.

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

Ex Parte, In re: Investigation of
the appropriate level of intrastate
access service prices

CASE NO. PUC000003

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, ex rel.

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

Ex Parte, In re: Investigation of
the appropriate level of intrastate
access service prices of Verizon
Virginia Inc.

CASE NO. PUC000242

ORDER ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

On August 8, 2000, Verizon Virginia Inc. ("Verizon Virginia") and the Staff of the State Corporation Commission ("Staff") filed a joint Motion to Approve Settlement of Case ("Motion") in Case No. PUC000003 and set forth a proposed Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") regarding intrastate access services and prices relative only to Verizon Virginia. Responses to this Motion were filed on August 14, 2000, by AT&T Communications of Virginia, Inc. and the Division of Consumer Counsel, Office of the Attorney General. On August 17, 2000, the Hearing Examiner assigned to Case No. PUC000003 entered a Certification of Ruling to the Commission recommending that the

Commission separate consideration of the Agreement from the ongoing proceedings and establish a procedure for considering comments on the merits of the changes in the access rates set forth in said Agreement and any related issues thereto.

NOW THE COMMISSION, upon consideration of the Hearing Examiner's recommendations and the comments filed relative to the Motion, is of the opinion and finds that it is in the public interest to sever Verizon Virginia from further consideration in Case No. PUC000003; to establish a new docket before the Commission for the investigation of Verizon Virginia's intrastate access service prices with regard to consideration of the Motion and the proposed Agreement; to accept into the new docket all cost studies and documents relative to this matter previously filed in Case No. PUC000003; to provide an opportunity for interested parties to submit comments or request a hearing and for Verizon Virginia and the Staff to respond to such comments; and, if requested, to provide an opportunity for the Commission to hear oral argument and accept evidence.

Any interested party may file written comments and/or testimony and any requests for a hearing on the proposed Agreement by September 26, 2000. We ask the parties to address, at a minimum, the following issues: (a) whether the Agreement should be approved, with support for the party's position; or (b) whether the Agreement should be modified, amended, or

rejected and, if so, how and why. Verizon Virginia, the Staff, and any party may file a reply to any comments or testimony filed on September 26, 2000, and should do so on or before October 10, 2000. If a request for hearing is filed, a hearing date of November 7, 2000, will be reserved to receive evidence and oral argument on the Agreement and any proposed modifications thereto. We will receive evidence and entertain cross examination only on issues that are proposed to be resolved by the Agreement.

Any party wishing to participate at a November 7, 2000, hearing may do so if the party provides notice of such intent, with copies being provided to all other parties and the Staff, by October 25, 2000. Such notice shall provide a brief description of the issues the party intends to address and identify any witnesses who may be presented, provided each witness's testimony has been prefiled on or before October 18, 2000.

It is the Commission's intention to admit to record in the new docket all comments, the cost studies, and other pertinent documents previously filed and admitted to record in Case No. PUC000003 that relate specifically to the Verizon Virginia Agreement and that the Commission feels are necessary for a complete and thorough consideration of this matter.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) The portion of Case No. PUC000003 relating to the investigation of intrastate access service prices of Verizon Virginia Inc. and the proposed Settlement Agreement filed therein shall be hereby severed from that docket and placed in new Case No. PUC000242.

(2) All cost studies and documents determined by the Commission to be relative to this matter and previously filed and admitted to record in Case No. PUC000003 shall be accepted into the newly created docket for consideration.

(3) Written comments and/or testimony and any requests for hearing on the proposed Settlement Agreement shall be due by September 26, 2000, in the manner set forth above. Copies of such comments and/or testimony and requests for hearing shall be served on the Staff and all parties contained on the service list in Case No. PUC000003.

(4) Replies to any comments, testimony, and requests for hearing filed on September 26, 2000, shall be filed by October 10, 2000. Copies of such replies shall be served on the Staff and all parties contained on the service list in Case No. PUC000003.

(5) If requested, a hearing shall be held on November 7, 2000, at 10:00 a.m. in a Commission Courtroom, Tyler Building, Second Floor, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia. At

that time the Commission will receive evidence and oral argument on the Settlement Agreement and any proposed modifications thereto. The Commission will receive evidence and entertain cross examination only on issues that are proposed to be resolved by the Settlement Agreement.

(6) Any party wishing to participate at such requested hearing shall file notice of such intent and serve a copy on the parties and the Staff by October 25, 2000. Such notice shall provide a brief description of the issues the party intends to address and the identity of any witnesses that will be presented at the hearing. Testimony of all witnesses to be presented, including witnesses of Verizon Virginia and the Staff, shall be filed by October 18, 2000.